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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 095411
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03
DOE-15 DOEE-00 SOE-02 NRC-05 ISO-00 /086 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:WNHOWELL:JD
APPROVED BY NEA:MDRAPER
NEA/P:GSHERMAN (SUBSTANCE)
AMB MURPHY (DRAFT)
INR/DDR:MPACKMAN
INR/DDC:HMELONE
----------001530 140042Z /61
O R 132134Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CIA WASHDC 0121
SECDEF WASHDC 0121
DIA
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 095411

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MOPS, SY, PINS, SOPN

SUBJECT: U.S. RADIOACTIVE ELECTRONIC DEVICE REPORTEDLY
UNCOVERED BY SARG

REF: DAMASCUS 2074 (NOTAL)
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1. AGREE YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE INITIATIVE IN RAISING MATTER AGAIN. IF YOU ARE CALLED IN, HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD SAY WE APPROACHED SARG ON BASIS OF INITIAL PRESS VERSION OF INCIDENT OUT OF OUR CONCERN AND IN GOOD FAITH. NO MENTION WAS MADE AT THAT TIME OF VERSION NOW PUBLICIZED BY SARG. IF SARG OFFICIAL ARGUES THAT EQUIPMENT IS OF U.S. ORIGIN,

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YOU SHOULD SAY THAT WE WILL LOOK INTO THE MATTER. IF WE DO, WE WOULD NEED FULL DETAILS ABOUT THE EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING VISUAL INSPECTION. CONCLUDE THAT YOU WILL ASK WASHINGTON FOR GUIDANCE.

2. BASED UPON YOUR DESCRIPTION OF DEVICE PICTURED IN SYRIAN PRESS, WE HAVE SET IN MOTION IDENTIFICATION EFFORT. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF RESULTS.

3. FOLLOWING IS CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE PROVIDED DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN FOR APRIL 13 NOON BRIEFING ON WHICH ADDRESSEES MAY DRAW ON IF ASKED BASIS:

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

Q. DO YOU KNOW ANTYHING ABOUT THE SYRIAN CHARGE THAT ISRAEL PLANTED A BOOBY-TRAPPED EAVESDROPPING DEVICE IN SYRIA THAT EXPLODED AND EMITTED "RADIOACTIVE PARTICLES" FROM CELLS MADE IN THE UNITED STATES?

A. -- WE HAVE SEEN THAT REPORT, AS WE DID THE PREVIOUS REPORT LAST WEEK OF THIS EXPLOSION WHICH KILLED SEVERAL SYRIANS; WE REGRET THE REPORTED LOSS OF LIFE.

-- WE HAVE NO DIRECT EVIDENCE ABOUT THE INCIDENT REPORTED, SO I HAVE NOTHING ON IT FOR YOU.
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-- WE NOTE FROM THE REPORT THAT SYRIA HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE UNITED NATIONS, AND WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO HEAR THE RESULTS OF ANY INVESTIGATION MADE. IT WOULD BE LOGICAL THAT EITHER PARTY SHOULD TURN TO THE UN CONCERNING AN INCIDENT SUCH AS THIS WHICH APPARENTLY OCCURRED IN AN AREA UNDER UN SUPERVISION.

Q. HAVE YOU BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE INCIDENT?

A. -- THE SUBJECT OF THE INITIAL REPORT AROSE IN THE COURSE OF OUR NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS IN A VERY GENERAL WAY. BEYOND THAT, I HAVE NOTHING FOR YOU ON THESE DISCUSSIONS SAVE TO REPEAT: WE HAVE NO DIRECT EVIDENCE ABOUT THE INCIDENT REPORTED.

Q. HAVE YOU GIVEN ANY SUCH DEVICE TO THE ISRAELIS?

A. -- WITHOUT KNOWING MORE ABOUT THE REPORTED INCIDENT AND THE ALLEGED DEVICE USED, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION.

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-- WE ARE LOOKING INTO THE MATTER. END UNCLASSIFIED.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, SURVEILLANCE, MONITORING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE095411
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WNHOWELL:JD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780159-1107
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780460/aaaabyyv.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f3e539b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 DAMASCUS 2074
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2979568
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. RADIOACTIVE ELECTRONIC DEVICE REPORTEDLY UNCOVERED BY SARG
TAGS: MILI, MOPS, PINS, SOPN, SY
To: DAMASCUS
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f3e539b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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